to the workpiece (connecting rod), the hydraulic medium is fed into the actuation chamber and simultaneously displaces the hydraulic medium in the return chamber. In order to return the device into its starting position, this procedure is reversed, i.e. hydraulic medium is fed into the return chamber and simultaneously the hydraulic medium is displaced from the actuation chamber.

It is known that the quality of crack splitting results, when crack splitting connecting rods, depends, among other things, upon the speed of the crack splitting procedure. For this reason, it has already been proposed in the aforementioned method and device that the control valve be designed as a cartridge valve and that the hydraulic medium be pressurized in an accumulator before feeding into the actuating chamber of the piston cylinder unit.

A further device for crack splitting connecting rods using a force or energy store is disclosed in DE 196 24 395 A1.

Description of the Invention

It is an object of the invention further to develop a device of the type described above such that given the simplest possible technical construction, the fastest possible transmission of working power onto a workpiece may be realised.

This object is fulfilled by a device having a working cylinder, a working piston, an actuation chamber that can be supplied with a hydraulic medium and situated on one side of the piston, a return chamber that can be supplied with a gaseous medium and situated on the opposite side of the piston, and a force transmission device which cooperates with the working piston.

The invention is based on the idea that the hydraulic medium usual in the prior art, which can be fed into the return chamber, can be replaced by a gaseous medium.